

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending in this application. Claims 1-19 are rejected, and claims 20-36 are allowed. Claims 1, 8 and 15 are currently amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Office maintains that the broadest reasonable interpretation of rejected claims 1-19 is that they purport to cover the situation where a multicast address is found in a lookup table and processed normally, without further limitation. Since this application is now on final rejection, claims 1, 8 and 15 are amended in the manner previously indicated by the Examiner to cause the claims to be allowable. It is hoped that by doing this the effort, expense and delay of appeal may be avoided. In particular, claims 1, 8 and 15 now recite as the first element that state information is unknown because there is no specific identification in memory of at least one port associated with a destination of the multicast data.

This application is considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. Should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-4001 (X305) so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

October 31, 2007
Date

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Docket No. 120-468
Dd: 10/02/2007